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March 03, V.39, 02

ENGARDE

174th Fighter Wing New York Air National Guard, Syracuse

Processes

Training

UCI FEVER

CATCH IT

Best Practices

Complies

Attitude

Task Evals

Appearance

Teamwork

Checklist

Programs

Compliance

Commander Certified Programs

Customs & Courtesies

Superior Performers

Critical Compliance Objectives



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174th Fighter Wing Vision and Mission Statements



Vision Statement

Our Vision is a world class fighter wing comprised of diverse individuals empowered to meet all challengers, and win. We accept nothing less.

Mission Statement

Provide combat ready personnel, aircraft, and equipment prepared for world wide deployment. To deter or attack and destroy enemy surface and airborne forces in support of joint operations; and to support civil authorities at the direction of the governor.

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

This month's comments will be short and to the point. Starting this Thursday and continuing through the drill weekend we will be visited by a team of inspectors from the Air Combat Command Inspector General, or ACC IG for short. The purpose of their visit is to administer a Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI) to the 174th Fighter Wing. The UCI is an evaluation of how well we follow written guidance from all levels of command above our level. This guidance spans from Presidential Directives to Headquarters New York Air National Guard memos.

All of the guidance that applies to us has been put into checklist format so that we can easily go down a list and see if we are doing the things that we are supposed to. The IG will use these same checklists to measure our performance. There is no overall grade such as "Excellent" or "Outstanding"; the measure of our merit is how our Critical Compliance Objectives (CCOs) "Comply", "Comply with Comments" or "Does not Comply". Our stretch goal is to have all of our objectives "Comply"; this has never been done before anywhere, and is probably unrealistic. My realistic goal is to have zero "Does not Comply" areas, ten percent or fewer "Complies with Comments", and ninety percent or better "Complies". This would still be the best inspection seen to date, but is not out of our reach.

Okay, so that's the process of how we get inspected, but what can you do at this late date to make this inspection go well? After all, by the time you read this all of the paperwork will have to have been completed, so what more can be done? The answer is simple, and is the same message that

Col. Basile and I have been preaching for months. When you show up for the first day with the inspectors, treat it as if it were your second week at Basic Training. Uniforms as sharp as you can make them. Shoes and boots shined as well as they can be. If you see a piece of trash on the ground, pick it up. Haircuts that don't push the limits. If it moves, salute it. Display the most positive attitude you can muster.

Respond to any IG question with an honest answer to the best of your ability, but if you can't answer fully, tell the inspector that you'll get the answer, and then do it. The IG has noted at several bases it inspected that a base that displays a professional bearing always seems to do much better than bases with poor attitudes - is there any mystery here? Look at it another way - you may not be able to make a large positive change on the day you show up here with an inspector near by, but you can surely have a large negative impact if you don't display the traits of a true professional.

When the IG leaves here after this UCI, we have the potential to set the standard by which all other ACC units are measured. I wouldn't tell you this if I didn't believe it to be so. There is a lot riding on this inspection, and a great performance now is a good way to go into a future full of uncertainty. Do well, be sharp, and most of all, be proud. You've earned the right.



Colonel Robert Knauff
174th FW, Commander

Life After the UCI

By Command Chief Master Sgt. Ted Mosley



As you read this article, we will probably be either days away from or in the throws of the Unit Compliance Inspection. Remember first impressions, positive attitude and military appearance.

We will get through the inspection and will have to continue with our mission with a focus on readiness training and making sure our personal life is in order. Has there recently been an addition to your family? Have you recently married or divorced? If your personnel files are not current, you are not ready to do what you are trained, or are training to do. There is a planned deployment to Cold Lake Canada in May and our scheduled AEF rotation is in early Fall of this year. If you would like to be part of either of these, get with your supervisor and they will let you know if it is possible.

Our conversion to the F-16 block 30's is continuing and should be completed in early spring. We have a two-seater (D Model) once again and incentive rides will start again as soon as all the jets are accepted. We hope to take the D model on most future deployments to continue the incentive ride program that is cur-

rently being re-written. I intend to continue the NCO/SNCO induction ceremony program on Sunday of the April drill, so if you have been promoted to NCO or Master Sergeant recently, plan on being there. Your supervisor will notify you and give you the details.

Now lets talk about promotion. Are you doing everything you can to make yourself ready and eligible for promotion? The only thing you cannot control about promotion eligibility is your time in grade and time in service.

Everything else, with the possible exception of your UMD position, is in your control. Things happen when you least expect them to and there are programs out there like deserving airmen promotion and the Exceptional Promotion Program (EPP). If your PME and skill-level training is complete, you will be ready if the opportunity arises. If you would like to discuss any of this, call me at 454-6102 on the UTA or 454-6459 during the week.



Command Chief
Master Sgt. Mosley



Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) R. Paul Mathis, 174th FW



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) R.
Paul Mathis

The third chapter of the book of Ecclesiastes states, "There is a season for everything, a time for every occupation under heaven; a time for giving birth, a time for dying..." Time is a wonderful gift given to all of us.

When we are young we often say in reference to time, "I can't wait until I am 16 so I can get my license to drive, or 21 so I can have a drink with my friends". We often wish life away. But when we are in our golden years we wonder, "where does the time go?" When we seriously think about time, we should recognize it as a gift from our creator. It's a gift we're called to use wisely and well.

Not to long ago I found this statement by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on time. His comments touched me deeply and made me realize again what an important gift time is - but a gift accompanied by serious responsibility.

Rev. King said "Time itself is neutral; it can be used either destructively or constructively. More and more I feel that the people of ill will have used time more effectively than have the people of good will. We will have to repent in this generation, not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people. Human progress

never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts of men willing to be co-workers with God, and without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of stagnation".

Yes. Time is the gift we all have been given. But how sad when we have not used our time to benefit others. My mother used to say in reference to time, that idle hands are the tools of the devil's workshop. In other words, am I using my time constructively with the gifts I have been given?

We know evil seems to never quit and is always around and with us. Are we conscious of this basic fact and do we use our gift of time to transform and deepen our human experience with others for the common good? We each might ask, how much time do I waste in a day, week or month? Do I use my time wisely?

As we have heard, actions speak louder than words. Words are easy to shout out to others, but do we put positive actions with our words for the benefit of life?

Let us be very honest - in a sense all we have is time. Maybe Martin Luther King hit the right note when he calls us to evaluate our use of time and challenges us good people to use it more positively in action for others.

"What we are is God's gift to us and what we become is our gift to God."

The Army is Coming to Hancock Field

By Staff Sgt. Tracey Schroeder, 174th SFS

UCI inspectors won't be the only new faces on Hancock Field during the March UTA. Unlike the UCI inspectors, these new faces will be here for a while. In an effort to take the pressure off of Security Forces world wide, the Army National Guard and Army Reserves are stepping in to augment Air Force Security Forces both CONUS and OCONUS.

Here in New 350 Army National servists were acti-to Fort Drum in early training. From there one of seven Air wide. Thirty of these signed to Hancock



Staff Sgt.
Tracey Schroeder

York approximately Guardsmen and Re-vated. They reported February, for initial they will be sent to Force locations state members were as-Field.

Tech Sgt. Scott Nappa and myself, were two of approximately fourteen Security Forces members, representing the several affected locations throughout the state, that spent eight days at Ft. Drum training the new augmenters. The Army folks underwent several days of localized training before being sent out..

The new troops are learning a whole new career field, and an understanding of a completely different branch of the service. All this in time for the UCI, so please be patient with our new friends.

Even though the March UTA will be crazy, please take a moment to introduce yourselves to our new augmentees and welcome them to the best unit in the Air National Guard.

Pictures Speak Louder Than You Think!

By Tech. Sgt. Mark McAfee, 174th SFS

In late December 2002, a Staff Sgt. decided to send home pictures of his deployment via the Internet. The e-mail included what he thought were harmless pictures of the base at which he was deployed. About two weeks after the incident, the same pictures were discovered in an Internet chat room sponsored by an Islamic reform group sympathetic to Osama Bin Laden and critical of the United States Government. The photographs were accompanied by language calling for action against the U.S. presence in this location.



Tech. Sgt.
Mark McAfee

Although the specific security provide terrorist plan-about the size, shape buildings. These pic-

pictures did not show measures, it could ners with information and construction of tures increased Force

Protection concerns for all military members stationed at the base. With the current threat here in CONUS, but even more so in deployed locations, it is essential that we all remain vigilant and stay focused on the mission. Review OPSEC procedures regularly, and stress the importance of posting pictures of military installations and facilities on the internet.

It's ok to take the opportunity to remember and share deployment experiences through pictures, however, we must avoid providing the enemy with any additional information, innocent, as it may seem.

Senator Clinton Visits the Molloy Road Militia

By PH1 Bart Bauer, U.S. Navy

On Saturday, Jan. 25, U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton was in Syracuse visiting local military personnel and their families. As a member of the Senate Armed Service Committee, Senator Clinton thanked the military for their service and pledged to support them any way she could while serving in the Senate.

"The nation has some new challenges ahead of it," Senator Clinton said, to a group of about 50 reservists at the Marine Reserve Center. The former first lady pledged her support to the men and women of the military, saying she did not know when or where they would be called upon, but is confident they will be successful. "Family readiness is mission readiness," said the Senator. "I will represent you to the best of my abilities."

During a closed-door session with Company B, 8th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division, and Army Reserve's 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion and the Air National Guard's 174th Fighter Wing, Sen. Clinton met with family members to answer individual questions and pose for pictures.

"Hillary was extremely approachable, and interested in what we had to say," Ida Tannahill said. Tannahill is a key volunteer with the 8th Tank Battalion, her husband Glenn, an activated reservist, is a Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class stationed with the battalion that is currently deployed.

The Senator later went on to tour Hancock Field, home of the 174th Fighter Wing, where she presented the Purple Heart to the sister of an Army soldier killed in World War II. The family of Joseph Tiaskkun lost the award in a house fire nearly 30 years ago. Tiaskkun, who participated in the Normandy landing June 6, 1944, was wounded in July 15 of that year and died the next day.

"We are clearly digging deep into our reserves, and I think we have to be very conscious of the sacrifices that are being made," said Sen. Clinton.

After the Purple Heart presentation and a time with the local press, Sen. Clinton was briefed by the Molloy Rd. Commanders in the 174th Wing Conference Room behind close doors. Headed up by Col. Robert Knauff, Commander of the 174th Fighter Wing, each Commander presented their unit's concerns and impact on the Central New York community. Along with Col. Knauff, the other presenters were Lt. Col. Ed Castle, U.S. Army Reserve, Major Tom Gordon, U.S. Marine Corp Reserve, LDCR John Wilshusen, U.S. Naval Reserve, Lt. Col. Gordon Howard, 152nd Air Control Group and Lt. Col. Mike Wells, 274th Air Support Operations Squadron, both of the New York Air National Guard, and Lt. Col. Raymond Shields, Army National Guard.

"This was my first chance to sit down and have coffee with a senator," said Lieutenant Commander John D. Wilshusen, Commanding Officer of the Naval Reserve Center in Syracuse. "I was happy to be able to present my concerns about our reserve community."



Col. Robert Knauff, Commander of the 174th, points out some of the new improvements to the 174th main hangar to Senator Clinton. The 174th main hangar was recently renovated and reopened. Photo by Tech Sgt. Scott Ash



Senator Clinton speaks to recently activated and deployed Marine Reserves of Company B 8th Tank Battalion. The Marine Reserve Center unit is located on Molloy Rd. Photo by PH1 Bart Bauer



Part of Senator Clinton's visit included the presentation of a World War II Purple Heart to Joseph Tiaskkun (now deceased). Accepting the award and an American Flag was his sister Julia Kadlec. Also pictured is New York State Assemblywoman Joan Christiansen and other members of the Tiaskkun family. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kevin Gruemwald

Raining Sweets on School Children Air Force Retirees and Civil Air Patrol Re-Enact Berlin Airlift

By Senior Member Bob Stronach, Public Affairs Officer, New York State Wing, Civil Air Patrol



Bob Stronach

Retired Air Force pilots and Civil Air Patrol members helped to bring history to life in September by re-enacting the Berlin Airlift in a World War II-era DC-4 plane and dropping hundreds of mini-parachutes loaded with candy over a school just outside Syracuse, NY.

Lt. Col. Myron "Mike" Tingelstad, retired Air Force pilot and member of the Central New York Group's Mohawk-Griffiss Senior Squadron, piloted the DC-4, and Maj. Gerald Marketos, Mohawk-Griffiss Squadron commander, acted as the "chocolate bombardier", as the plane flew low at 500 feet, with the drone of its four engines drowning out the cheers and applause of hundreds of pupils, teachers and parents at Manlius Pebble Hill School in DeWitt, NY.

Among those watching the 650 handkerchief-size parachutes shoot out of the plane and float down to the school's athletic field and tennis courts were retired Air Force Col. Gail Halvorsen and children's author Margot Theis Raven. Raven's new book, "Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot," chronicles how Halvorsen grabbed the hearts of both the

American and German peoples when he found a way to rain chocolate, gum and other candies on the children of Berlin during the 1948-49 airlift to save 2.2-million Berliners from Soviet Premier Josef Stalin's blockade. Halvorsen and Raven spoke to a school assembly just prior to the candy drop.

In 1948, when Stalin blockaded access to Berlin by land, British and American forces began a non-stop 15-month airlift to bring food and supplies to Berliners. During one of his trips to Berlin, Halvorsen, then a lieutenant, hiked to the end of the airfield where he met a group of 30 children watching the planes land and take off from the other side of a barbed wire fence. He started chatting with them, and was impressed by their attitude and by their fervor for freedom. As he was about to leave, he wanted to give them something. He found two sticks of gum in his pocket. He broke the sticks of gum into several pieces for a few to share, while the rest enjoyed smelling the sweet aroma from slivers of the wrappers. In that instant, Halvorsen relates, he saw the future of Germany before him, and he impulsively told the children he would return the next day and drop candy to them. Back at his home base that night, he bought as much candy and gum as he could, and experimented with parachutes made with handkerchiefs.

command, "Candy drop -- NOW!" Major Marketos hefted a box of parachute treats to the open window, and they were sucked out in a flash. Across the aisle at the other



Col. Gail Halvorsen, now 80 years old, speaking at a benefit dinner following the "Berlin Airlift" re-enactment. Halvorsen captured the hearts of the American and German people when he rained candies on the children of Berlin in 1948.

open window, Crew Chief Kelly Silcox sent his load of treats soaring as well.

The DC-4 circled around for a second pass, dropping two more loads. The children below retrieved the chocolate and gum -- except for a few parachutes that drifted to the school's roof.

Another World War II plane, a Stinson L-5 piloted by Andy Auchincloss, flew over the school minutes earlier to drop a few treats and test the wind.

The DC-4, which is still in service as a flying laboratory, was donated for the exercise by Aero Union Corporation. The 57-year-old plane is based at Oneida County Airport in Oriskany, NY, where the Mohawk-Griffiss Senior Squadron is headquartered.

In 1948 Americans responded to Halvorsen's impulsive act by supplying 250,000 candy-loaded parachutes, and more than 20 tons of chocolate and gum to Berlin's 100,000 children. Just like back



Civil Air Patrol, New York Wing's Maj. Gerald Marketos, left, and Lt. Col. Myron "Mike" Tingelstad, pilot, in the cockpit of the World War II-era DC-4.

Fifty-four years later, Lt. Col. Tingelstad and co-pilot Ralph Rushworth, a retired Air Force major, aimed the DC-4 at the school barely visible in the distance, and prepared to wiggle the plane's wings just before dropping their load -- because that's what Halvorsen had done to alert the German children that the "chocolate pilot" was approaching. Ground control helped guide the DC-4 to the drop zone, and gave the

then, Americans responded to this modern-day re-enactment, with Wegmans supermarket donating chocolate bars and gum, Dollar General donating the handkerchiefs, and parents and community members assembling the parachutes and tying them to the treats.

After the drop, Halvorsen and Raven autographed copies of "Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot". Proceeds benefited the school's scholarship and financial aid fund.

After the short hop back to Oneida County Airport, Lt. Col. Tingelstad said, "We're just happy to oblige and be part of history," interjected Silcox.

Added Major Marketos: "That's something we'll probably never get to do again in our lifetime -- fly a piece of history."



The "Berlin Airlift" crew in front of the World War II-era DC-4: (from left) Crew Chief Kelly Silcox, who is project manager for Aero Union Corp.; Pilot Myron "Mike" Tingelstad, a member of New York Wing's Mohawk-Griffiss Senior Squadron who flies for Aero Union; Co-Pilot Ralph Rushworth, a retired Air Force major who also flies for Aero Union; and Maj. Gerald Marketos, commander of the New York Wing's Mohawk-Griffiss Senior Squadron.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS NORTHEAST AIR DEFENSE SECTOR (ANG)
ROME, NY 13441-4507

MEMORANDUM FOR 174 FW/CC

FROM: NEADS/CC
387 Hangar Road
Rome, NY 13442-4507

JAN 15 2003

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

1. On behalf of the Northeast Air Defense Sector (NEADS) please accept my sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks for the outstanding service and support provided to NEADS and the Continental United States NORAD Region over the past year in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE.
2. From your initial response to the events of 11 September 2001, through today, your unit's selfless dedication to the mission at hand has been nothing less than phenomenal. Despite the long hours and tremendous stress of our new mission, your unit's responsiveness to the changing situations has played a key role in our nation's defense. The outstanding effort and actions of your personnel have significantly increased our defensive posture and capability to respond to immediate, potential threats.
3. The challenges of this past year have been unprecedented, yet your organization's superior performance and "can-do" attitude reflect well upon each of you individually and collectively as a unit. I am extremely proud of your performance and grateful for your efforts and contributions.

ROBERT K. MARR, JR., Colonel, USAF
Commander

New Deployment Center Available Online

Service members who are stationed overseas now have the opportunity to continue pursuing their educational goals online. Many schools are offering service members the opportunity use their GI bill and Tuition Assistance to pursue their undergraduate or graduate degree from anywhere in the world through military-friendly degree programs. Degree programs include business management, information technology, education, and masters of business administration among others. To request free information about overseas education opportunities, go to <http://www.military.com/Education/Lead1>

Base Announcements

Attention AGRs

If you utilize the tuition assistance program for college courses, please be advised that the Base Education and Training Office requires that you submit an official grade report to us. This is IAW AF 1227 which indicates that documentation for successful completion of a course must be submitted to update your education records. Failure to do so may result in collection of funds to reimburse the Air Force tuition program.

Community College of the Air Force

You may work toward an Associate's degree in your AFSC through the Community College of the Air Force. You are registered once you have completed basic military training. To earn the degree, you will need a total of 64 credits which can be obtained through your military technical schools, PME, civilian college credit and/or DANTES subject tests. To find out more about earning your degree, contact the Base Training and Education office at 454.6147, 454.6148 or 454.6409.

A Reminder From Your MPF

With all of the recent mobilizations taking place, keeping our records up-to-date is a crucial responsibility of all military members. Are all of your dependents enrolled in DEERS (Defense Eligibility Enrollment System)? Is your DD Form 93, Record of Emergency Data, up-to-date? Are your beneficiaries on your SGLV-8286 Servicemen's Group Life Insurance current? If any of the following changes have occurred you may need to update your DEERS information and/or your DD Form 93 and/or your Service members Group Life insurance form:

- Address change
- Dependents address change
- Number of dependents
- Parents address change
- Marital status

If you have any further questions, please contact Staff Sgt. Robert Zoldi at the MPF, 454-6496.

An Unconditional Guarantee

Simply stated the guarantee is as follows: Only floss the teeth you choose to keep. Failure to floss at least once a day results in chronic inflammation and eventual destruction of the tissue that retain the teeth. It is initially a silent, and pain-free way to lose your teeth. Periodontal disease affects one in five adult North Americans and is responsible for 70% of adult tooth loss. Further, a report from the Harvard Medical School in its publication Focus links chronically infected gums (periodontal disease) to coronary heart disease (CHD). How do we prevent this catastrophe? Pick up a DD Form 2813 from your Orderly Room, and make an appointment with your dentist for a check-up. You'll assure yourself of a long life of enjoyable meals without having to wear den-

tures. "But I don't have dental insurance to pay for dental appointments," you say. That's easy! If you do not have dental insurance, MPF has the paperwork to enroll in a plan that covers you and your family for about \$20.00 a month. The Department of Defense has introduced the Tri-Care Dental Plan (TDP), www.ucci.com 1-800-866-8499, as a government subsidized, cost-saving measure for assisting Guard and Reserve members and their families. A comparable civilian dental insurance program for both evaluating and treating members and their families may cost as much as twice the premium for this program. And as an added bonus, you will be fulfilling your obligation as an ANG member to maintain optimum oral health and participate in the Annual Dental Exam Program!! What a deal!!!



Tech. Sgt Brad Addison was selected as one of this year's recipients of the Governor's Tribute to African American Leaders of Excellence in State Service. Attending the ceremony with TSgt. Addison, are L-R, Chief Master Sgt Lonnie Senior, Recruiting and Retention Superintendent NYANG, Master Sgt. Noel Adamson, 174th Recruiting Office Supervisor and Maj. Gen Archie J. Berberian, II, Chief of Staff, NYANG.

**March UTA
Pay Date:
19 March 03**

**Next UTA
5 & 6 April
2003**



**174th Fighter Wing
Dining Facility Hours**

1030 – 1300

Please see OPORD for menu



Guard and Reserve Destined for Bigger Homeland Security Roles

The president's nominee to become DoD's chief liaison to the Department of Homeland Security told U.S. lawmakers during a recent confirmation hearing that he sees the Guard and Reserve assuming more homeland defense duties. Paul McHale, former Pennsylvania congressman and Marine, met Jan. 30 with Senate Armed Services Committee members to discuss his nomination to become the assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense. In answering a question from Oklahoma Sen. James Inhofe, McHale said the Guard and Reserve would become more deeply engaged in homeland defense in the months to come. In fact, he said, DoD is conducting a review of future reserve component roles and missions. Today's Guard provides an overseas war fighting capability that has to be retained, McHale said. But he also pointed to the projected increase in the number of Guard civil support teams -- now at 27 -- and continued Air Guard support of combat air patrol missions over the nation's skies. "If anything, the Guard will in some ways be coming back to its roots to defend the nation domestically," he added. He later emphasized to senators the National Guard should be a "balanced" force, in that members will be equally trained and prepared for new, major roles in homeland defense as well as for potential overseas missions.

COMREL Speaker for March

Colonel Mark D. Perodeau is the Commander and Professor of Aerospace Studies of Air Force ROTC Detachment 535, at Syracuse University. In addition to being responsible for preparing young men and women to become officers and leaders in today's Air Force, teaches courses on the Air Force, National the Development of graduate of the Force Academy, Col. pilot wings at Laugh-Texas and went on to in the KC-135 at Cas-California, where he

Col. Perodeau also Foundations of the Security Affairs, and Airpower. A 1977 United States Air Perodeau earned his lin Air Force Base in combat crew training the Air Force Base in was selected as an Outstanding Graduate. Col. Perodeau will be our Community Relations Luncheon speaker for March. We encourage all members to attend Wednesday March 26, 2003, at the 174th Dining Hall. Doors open at 11:30 and a buffet lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. Please join 174th alumni, guests and friends for what will most certainly be an interesting program. Lunch costs \$7.50 per person, proceeds will go to the support the Syracuse Rescue Mission. See you there!



Col. Mark Perodeau



This photo taken by Senior Airman Michael Dickson of the 174th Communications Flight Visual Information section, appeared on the Air Force Link website. The photo shows the new fire suppression system being tested in the 174th Fighter Wing's newly renovated hangar. Kudos to Senior Airman Dickson for a job performance worthy of an Air Force wide appearance.

More VA Benefits for Vietnam Veterans

Air Force Retiree News reports that based upon a recently released review of scientific studies, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi has decided to extend benefits to Vietnam veterans with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). The ruling means that veterans with CLL who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War don't have to prove that illness is related to their military service to qualify for Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation. Principi ordered the development of regulations to enable the VA to begin paying compensation benefits once a final rule takes effect. Publication of that regulation is expected in the near future. The VA will publish further details, when available, on its Website at

<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/herbicide/>.

Military Life Insurance Premiums Reduced

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will reduce Service member's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) premiums, beginning in July 2003. Ninety-eight percent of active duty and 96 percent of eligible reservists hold SGLI policies. The new monthly rate will be 6.5 cents for every \$1,000 of coverage, about 19 percent less than the current 8 cents. Monthly premiums for the maximum coverage of \$250,000 will fall to \$16.25 from the current \$20. In addition to the basic SGLI, family coverage is available for spouses and children of service members holding SGLI policies. Spouse's pay age-based premiums for up to \$100,000 coverage, while children receive \$10,000 of free coverage. The reduction for spousal policies will vary among age groups, with the largest decline – 42 percent – affecting those 35 to 39. The reductions will save service members about \$96 million annually in basic SGLI premiums and about \$42 million in family policy premiums. The reductions do not affect Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) rates. For more information about VA administered life insurance programs visit <http://www.insurance.va.gov/>. The 174th MPF office will provide guidance to any military member that would like to discuss a change to their SGLI or FSGLI. Please contact Staff Sgt. Robert Zoldi at 454.6496.

Income Tax Relief for Combat Zone Service

American Forces Press Service reports that military members serving in designated combat zones in support of the war against global terrorism get a tax break from Uncle Sam. Depending upon rank, eligible service members can exclude from federal income tax either all or some of their active duty pay -- and certain other pays -- earned in any month during service in a designated combat zone. Current combat zones are Afghanistan, specified parts of the Kosovo area and the Persian Gulf region. Service members in several other areas specified in law as "qualified hazardous duty areas" are eligible for the same tax breaks. Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Croatia have been listed since November 1995. Some members providing direct support for military operations within a designated combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area may also be eligible for income tax exclusions. New for 2002 are service in Djibouti, Africa, after July 1, 2002; and service in the Philippines after Jan. 9, 2002, providing members' orders specify their duty is "in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom - Philippines." For more, see the Armed Forces' Tax Guide for 2002 at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf>. For general information on taxes, see

<http://www.military.com/Finance/Taxes/1,13397,82,00.html>

Education Options for Overseas Members

Service members who are stationed overseas now have the opportunity to continue pursuing their educational goals online. Many schools are offering service members the opportunity use their GI bill and Tuition Assistance to pursue their undergraduate or graduate degree from anywhere in the world through military-friendly degree programs. Degree programs include business management, information technology, education, and masters of business administration among others. To request free information about overseas education opportunities, go to

<http://www.military.com/Education/Lead1>

Service member's Group life Insurance

By Lt Gen. Bruce A. Wright, ACC Vice-Commander

A recent fatality briefing highlighted that one of our airmen elected not to participate in SGLI. This meant that the member's family did not get the economic support they would have if the member had signed up for SGLI. Even though our airmen sign a form that says they are consciously turning down SGLI, please ensure commanders and supervisors are taking all possible steps to ensure our airmen understand the ramifications

of turning down SGLI. Using specific recent examples of the impact on surviving family members may help, and your safety offices have the information and details. Thanks to all ACC commanders for continuing to take an active roll in getting the word out on then benefits of SGLI as well as the tragic consequences of turning it down.

Suggested Change

It was suggested by Jim Shanahan, during our January monthly meeting, that we amend our Constitution to allow 174th personnel, (those with over 20 years of military service), to join the Alumni as a "Regular Member". Our Constitution presently allow these individuals to join our Association as an "Associate Member" but restricts them from holding office and voting on Alumni matters. If this change were enacted, they would have the same privileges as other members and allow them to take a more active role in our operation. Jim also recommended that we permit all other members of the 174th, to join the Alumni as "Associate Members" but with the restrictions currently imposed by our Constitution. The rationale reasoning for these changes is to help create a closer tie with the 174th, provide additional input on where our Association should be headed and to enhance our recruiting efforts. The general consensus of those attending the meeting was that it is a good move. It was suggested that a formal proposal be submitted at the February 2003 meeting. The earliest it can be voted on would be at the May 2003 membership meeting, because of the membership notification requirements when amending our Constitution and By-Laws.

Taps

Robert A. Masterpol, 59, died 9 Jan 03. Bob worked in Base Supply. He left the unit in Dec 1970. Roy White, 72, died 27 Dec 02. Roy joined the 138th FS in Nov 48, and stayed with the unit for 6 years, working as a weapons specialist in the Armament Shop. Joseph Dixon, 79, died 15 Jul 2001. Joe was one of the original charter members, assigned to the 138th FS as a Pilot/Operations Officer, flying P-47 aircraft.

New Members

Brian Dahl, Peter Leo, Donald Spencer

New Life Members

In recent months, we have received a number of inquiries from various members wondering why we have not sent them a Life Membership card now that they are 80 years old, or have paid their dues up to their 80th birthday. In most cases the answer was "we do not have your date of birth." The problem originated with the earlier membership applications; it did not request a date of birth. We would ask for it now, but we know

E. Tubbert. If you are not in this group and think you should be, contact either John Terry at (315) 478-0115, or Jim Monroe at (315) 635-5402, and we will see that you are added to the list.

More News & Trivia

If you have a computer and would like to sign up for the "Military Retiree's Activity Newsletter," all you have to do is send an e-mail to: ronald.akins@westover.af.mil and tell him that you want to receive the newsletter via e-mail. Be sure to give your e-mail address, name, rank, zip code, and branch of service.. We still have quite

a few members that have yet to pay their 2003 dues. You may be one of them, so please check your membership card to see what your expiration date is. If you need to renew your membership, you can do so by sending your check to 174th Alumni Association, 6001 East Molloy Road, Syracuse, NY 13221-7099. The cost for renewal is still only \$5.00 a year or \$20.00 for five years. If you served in the Army Air force (AAF), prior to the establishment of the U.S. Air Force, you

can place your military history in the Military History Institute, to include military orders, citations, awards, and personal accounts of events and photographs. Write to the U.S. Army Military History Institute, ATTN: Acquisitions, 22 Ashburn Drive, Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, PA 170013-5008. Phone: (717) 245-3600.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2003 at 7:00 PM in the Base All Service Club. Liquid refreshments will be served. Come on out, we'd love to see you.



"A MOMENTOUS OCCASION"

Front Row L to R" Barb Bacon, Jane Burdick, Marie Stessen. Back Row L to R: General Hall, Mike Casler, Harry Edgbert, Bill Fowler, Jim Flynn, Leon Rutkowski, Luke Thayer, Leo McGlynn

from experience that our effort would go un-rewarded, because most people do not respond to a mail inquiry. Because we know many of our WWII veterans were born in the 1920s, John Terry took it upon himself to research some old records, and made numerous phone calls to try and identify those individuals that should have received a Life Membership card. He has since come up with 18 additional names. They are: David L. Born, James C. Broadwell, Charles W. Dietrich Sr., Michael R. DeLallo, Dante C. DiPietra, Joseph O. Dixon, Elwood C. Ellison, James E. English, Robert R. Hann, F. Tex Henderson, Archer N. Martin, Joseph P. Pompei, Leonard H. Salsbury, Clifford W. Sherman, Robert M. Stafford, Marie D. Stessen, Everett E. Taylor, Frank L. Traino, Robert



THE ICEMEN COMETH

If you didn't attend 174th Syracuse Crunch Hockey Night in February, here's another chance to see the members of the team. The Crunch decided it would be a cool idea to feature a jet from the 174th Fighter Wing on their team poster, which will also include their season's schedule of games. The 174th agreed and the final result was as cool as ice.

ENGARDE

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